

CLAIMS:

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1b8

1. A battery (10) comprising a housing containing a plurality of positive plates (11) connected in parallel and a plurality of negative plates (12) connected in parallel, the positive plates each being of substantially the same size and rectangular shape having two long edges (16a and 16b) and a first short edge (14) and a second short edge (15), characterised in that the housing also contains a member (25;28) having a first end and a second end, the first end being electrically connected to the first short edges (14) of the positive plates (11) adjacent to one of the two sets of long edges (16a) and the second end being electrically connected to the second short edges (15) of the positive plates (11) adjacent the same set of long edges (16a) or to the same set of long edges (16a) of the positive plates (11) immediately adjacent to the second short edges (15), the member (25;28) extending parallel to the said long edges (16a and 16b) for most its length and consisting of a material which has a greater conductivity than the material of the positive plates (11).

2 A battery (10) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the negative plates (12) are each substantially the same size and rectangular shape having two long edges (16) and a first short edge (14) and a second short edge (15), and a further member (25;28) is provided, the further member having a first end and a second end, the first end being electrically connected to the first short edges (14) of the negative plates (12) and the second end being electrically connected to the second short edges (15) of the negative plates (12) or to one of the long edges (16) of the negative plates (12) immediately adjacent to the second short edges (15), the further member (25;28) consisting of a material which has a greater conductivity than the material of the negative plates (12).

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3. A battery (10) according to either Claim 1 or Claim 2 characterised in that the negative plates (12) and the positive plates (11) are all substantially the same size and rectangular shape.

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4. A battery (10) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ ^{CLAIM 1} characterised in that the first short edges (14) of the positive plates are connected by a connector (20) which is electrically connected to a positive terminal (22) of the battery (10).

CLAIM 1

5. A battery (10) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ characterised in that the second short edges (15) of the positive plates (12) are connected by a further connector (24).

6. A battery (10) according to Claim 5 characterised in that the further connector (24) is of the same general material as the positive plates (12).

7. A battery (10) according to Claim 5 characterised in that the second connector (24) is of the same general material as the member (25).

CLAIM 1

8. A battery (10) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which is a lead acid battery.

9. A battery (10) according to Claim 8 characterised in that the member (25;28) comprises copper covered in a lead sheath.

10. A battery (10) according to claim 9 characterised in that the connector (20) comprises copper covered in lead.

11. A battery (10) according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~ characterised that the positive terminal (22) comprises copper covered in lead.

12. A battery (10) according to Claim 8 characterised in that the member (25;28) comprises a copper alloy such as brass, covered in a lead sheath.

13. A battery (10) according to Claim 8 characterised in that the member (25;28) comprises aluminium covered in a lead sheath.

14. A battery (10) according to Claim 8 characterised in that the member (25;28) comprises an aluminium alloy covered in a lead sheath.

CLAIM 9

15. A battery (10) according to ~~any one of Claims 9 to 12~~ characterised in that the sheath is covered in an acid resistant material such as an epoxy resin.